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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Morocco: draft resolution

Public administration and development

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the rapid pace of global economic developments and their implications for all countries, particularly developing countries, and the critical importance of efficient and effective government institutions, administrative systems and procedures, and sound financial management to harness these changes in support of economic and social progress and sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for effective government and efficient public administrative services to be responsive to the needs of the people, to ensure universal access to quality services and productive assets and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development and provide quality services,

Affirming the right and responsibility of States to establish government structures, administrative procedures and systems and accountable systems of financial management based on the rule of law,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting cooperation among all countries in enhancing the quality of public administration, including, inter alia, the promotion of a participatory approach to development, the provision of basic social services, the development of policies to eradicate poverty and the establishment of an enabling environment for economic growth, social justice and sustainable development,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in assisting Governments in ensuring the maintenance of essential basic government services and functions during times of crisis and in developing strategies for rebuilding a viable

public administration in countries undergoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Taking note of the fact that the United Nations system, responding to requests from Member States, has expanded its support for public administration to include the wider aspects of governance, including electoral, legal and judiciary reform, and the strengthening of the civil society,

Recalling the Tangier Declaration, 1/ adopted by the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of the Civil Service held in Morocco on 20 and 21 June 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 49/136 of 19 December 1994,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decision 1996/215 of 2 April 1996,

Stressing the importance of an efficient and effective public sector as the basic framework for stable and sustainable institutional and human development in all countries,

Noting that improved efficiency in government requires strengthened and efficient public administrative and financial management capacities in order to ensure a civil service that is responsive to the needs of the economy and the civil society and the provision of quality services,

Emphasizing the benefits to all countries of exchanging experiences and views in order to promote better understanding and applications of various roles and functions of government and public administration, including such exchanges within the context of South-South and interregional cooperation,

Recognizing that the role of public administration can be viewed as promoting economic growth and social justice, facilitating infrastructure development and protecting the environment, promoting partnerships, managing development programmes and maintaining a sound legal and regulatory framework,

Acknowledging that societies, Governments, economies and public administrations are no longer isolated, and affected only by national trends, and that the conditions of global interaction are changing at a rapid pace,

Recognizing that public administration systems need to be both responsive and proactive,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on public administration and development, 2/ and of the proposals contained therein;

1/ See A/49/495, annex.

2/ A/50/847-E/1996/7.

2. Takes further note with appreciation of the report of the Group of Experts in Public Administration and Finance; 3/

3. Recognizes that there exists a common set of challenges and trends facing national Governments, the United Nations and the international community in the field of public administration and development which include:

(a) Rapidly changing domestic and international conditions and increasing demands for services and the need to reshape public administration to be responsive thereto;

(b) The need to enable Governments to promote sustainable development and universal access to quality services and equitable access to productive assets;

(c) A greater demand for participation, transparency and accountability;

(d) The need to further define and promote the role of the United Nations as a global centre of excellence for public administration and development;

(e) The need to optimize the role of the United Nations in order to make it more responsive in dealing with emerging public management issues related to sustainable development;

(f) The recognition that the improvement of administrative systems is a continuous challenge and an important prerequisite for sustainable development;

4. Also recognizes that, to meet these challenges, public administration systems must be sound, efficient and well equipped with the appropriate capacities and capabilities;

5. Acknowledges the need for Member States to strengthen their capacities for effective public administration to promote sustainable development and establish conditions for good governance, in which non-governmental organizations and the private sector could play a meaningful role;

6. Emphasizes the need for public administration to attain an enhanced and proactive role in national development strategies through:

(a) Ensuring the rule of law;

(b) Strengthening the capacity for policy development and financial management;

(c) Promoting the efficient utilization of information technology;

(d) Establishing training programmes for senior levels of civil service to improve the capacity of government to better address emerging issues;

3/ A/50/525-E/1995/122.

(e) Ensuring that delivery of services, by either the public or the private sector, is responsive, efficient and effective;

(f) Providing an enabling and encouraging environment for the private sector;

(g) Systematizing, monitoring and evaluating social programmes so as to enable public administrators to assess their impact and balance their local, national and international concerns and to further enable the development of strategies and programmes of action;

(h) Developing strategies for rebuilding a viable public administration in countries undergoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(i) Encouraging Governments to develop cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary capabilities which support all phases of the development process;

7. Invites Governments to strengthen their public administrative and financial management capacities through public-sector administrative and management reform, with emphasis on enhanced productivity, accountability and responsiveness of the public institutions;

8. Notes that the success of the actions taken by Governments to improve their public administration can best be guaranteed by a sustained concentration on enhanced productivity with a coherent policy of civil service reform, accountability of the public service within a legal framework to strengthen the mechanism for transparency and responsiveness of the public service based upon decentralization in the delivery of goods and services;

9. Recognizes the importance of the recent United Nations conferences on sustainable development, and urges the development of the necessary capabilities to enable public administration to implement the commitments agreed upon in an effective and coordinated manner;

10. Acknowledges that the United Nations activities and programmes in public administration and development can best be responsive to the needs of the Member States by:

(a) Providing advisory services and technical assistance in administrative restructuring in support of economic liberalization, decentralization processes, municipal reform, people-centred development and the capacity-building of training institutions;

(b) Contributing to the development of "management change" units in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, in capacity-building for socio-economic development;

(d) Playing a role in establishing procedures for assessing environmental impacts of infrastructure projects;

(e) Assisting countries attempting to modernize their legal framework with respect to human resources management, particularly as the laws relate to civil service;

(f) Assisting in all phases of restoration and restructuring of public administration institutions;

11. Stresses the importance of an increased synergy between the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations programme in public administration and finance and the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure that the substantive and technical capacity of the United Nations system is maximized;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure that the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations programme in public administration and finance, carry out efficiently and without duplication the following activities:

(a) Serving as a clearing-house for information and experiences on developments and best practices in public administration;

(b) Undertaking research on effective systems and procedures in public administration, with particular attention devoted to the civil service systems, administrative structures and administrative reorganization, decentralization, aid management, accountability, financial management, metropolitan and local governance, approaches to rehabilitation and reconstruction of government and administrative services in post-conflict situations, and to ensure the timely distribution of these research results to Member States;

(c) Providing advisory services to Member States, at their request, on public measures to strengthen public administration and public finance systems and institutions to enhance national and local capacities to provide effective public services to all;

(d) Also providing advisory services to Member States, at their request, on establishing a sound legal and regulatory framework essential for promoting sustainable development and for strengthening the private sector;

(e) Giving priority to the development and implementation of training programmes for officials from interested developing countries and countries with economies in transition to maximize available human resources capabilities for dealing with challenges of public management, including developing special training programmes for nationals of countries emerging from conflict situations requiring special rehabilitation and reconstruction of government and public administrative services;

(f) Strengthening regional centres, as appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional organizations to ensure the sharing of knowledge and experience in public administration and evolving trends within regions, and with a view to promoting South-South and interregional cooperation;

(g) Reinforcing the network of institutions in the field of training and research for public administration and management at the national, regional and international levels, to better disseminate available information and better coordinate bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this field;

13. Invites the international community to recognize the importance of the role of public administration and governance in sustainable human development and the maintenance of peace and stability, and to provide adequate resources for programmes of assistance for improving public administration in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries facing special circumstances;

14. Recommends that the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance be designated as the United Nations Committee on Public Administration and Development, as envisaged in paragraph 140 of the report of the Secretary-General; 4/

15. Also recommends that the appropriate machinery be established, within the existing framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in order to ensure maximum coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of public administration and development, particularly between the United Nations programme in public administration and finance, the United Nations Development Programme and the Bretton Woods institutions;

16. Further recommends that the issue of public administration and development be included as a regular item on the agenda of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, to be considered biennially;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present solution.

4/ A/50/847-E/1996/7.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia: revised draft resolution

Public administration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Tangier Declaration, 1/ adopted by the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of the Civil Service held in Morocco on 20 and 21 June 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 49/136 of 19 December 1994 on public administration and development,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decision 1996/215 of 2 April 1996,

Bearing in mind the rapid pace and interdependence of global, political, social and economic developments, and their implications for all countries, particularly the developing countries, and that there is a critical need for improved efficiency and effective public institutions, administrative procedures and sound financial management to harness these challenges in support of sustainable development in all countries,

Affirming that States have the sovereign right and responsibility to decide, in accordance with their own development policy, strategies, needs and priorities, on their public administration management based on the rule of law,

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1/ See A/49/495, annex.

Acknowledging the diversity of experiences in public administrative systems as well as the political, social and economic circumstances of each country,

Recognizing that effectiveness of government requires an efficient and effective public administration in all countries that is responsive to the needs of the people, promotes social justice, ensures universal access to quality services and productive assets and creates an enabling environment for sustainable people-centred development,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the quality of public administration based, inter alia, on the participatory approach to development,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in assisting Governments, at their request, in ensuring the maintenance of essential basic government services and functions during times of crisis and in developing strategies for rebuilding a viable public administration in countries undergoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Taking note of the fact that the United Nations system, responding to requests from interested Member States, has contributed in support of their public administration to include wider aspects of governance, including democratic, legal and judiciary reform, and strengthening of the civil society,

Recognizing that Governments in all countries should make their procedures transparent in order to avoid and combat all acts of corruption,

Emphasizing the benefits to all countries of exchanging experiences and views in order to promote better understanding and applications of various roles and functions of government and public administration, and enhancing international cooperation in this field, including such exchanges within the context of South-South and interregional cooperation,

Recognizing the important role of the public sector in the development process and stressing the need to improve development and management of its human resources through, inter alia, appropriate national incentive measures,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on public administration and development 2/ and of the proposals contained therein;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Group of Experts in Public Administration and Finance; 3/

3. Takes further note of the reports of the regional meetings on public administration and development; 4/

2/ A/50/847-E/1996/7.

3/ A/50/525-E/1995/122.

4/ A/50/904, A/50/917, A/50/919, A/50/920, A/50/921, A/50/929.

4. Recognizes that there exists challenges and trends variously facing national Governments in the field of public administration;

5. Reaffirms that democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

6. Underlines the importance of transparent and accountable governance and administration in all public and private national and international institutions;

7. Recognizes that there is a need for public administration systems to be sound, efficient and well equipped with the appropriate capacities and capabilities through, inter alia, capacity-building, promotion of transfer, access and utilization of technology, establishment or improvement of training programmes for public service, strengthening of partnership of the public sector with the private sector and civil society, as well as providing an enabling environment for private sector activities, as appropriate, promotion of the role and involvement of women in public administration, development of cross-sectoral gender-sensitive and multidisciplinary capabilities, which supports all phases of the development process as well as the promotion of opportunities for all to participate in all spheres of the public sector;

8. Reaffirms that Governments in all countries should promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, bearing in mind the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy, development and respect for human rights, and should make public institutions more responsive to people's needs;

9. Invites Governments to strengthen their public administrative and financial management capacities through public-sector administrative and management reform, with emphasis on enhanced efficiency and productivity, accountability and responsiveness of the public institutions, and encourages, where appropriate, decentralization of public institutions and services;

10. Recognizes the importance of the major United Nations conferences and urges the development of the necessary capabilities to enable public administration to implement the commitments agreed upon in an effective and coordinated manner;

11. Confirms the importance of and calls for enhancement of the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the area of public administration and development;

12. Stresses the importance of an increased synergy, cooperation and coordination between United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Secretariat and the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure that the substantive and technical capacity of the United Nations system is optimized;

13. Acknowledges that the role of United Nations activities and programmes in public administration and development is to assist Governments, at their

request, to improve their responsiveness to meet the basic needs of all, as well as to the achievement of sustainable development in all countries. The United Nations should focus its activities in the following areas as recommended by the Group of Experts in Public Administration and Finance in its report:

(a) Strengthening government capacity for policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and public administration training;

(b) Improving performance ... the public sector;

(c) Financial management;

(d) Public-private interaction;

(e) Social development;

(f) Developing infrastructure and protecting the environment;

(g) Government legal capacity;

(h) Post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of government machinery;

(i) Management of development programmes.

In this context, the United Nations should carry out these activities through pooling and facilitating access to information in public administration, promoting training and research in public administration and finance at all levels, advocacy and exchange of experiences, advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building and human resources development;

14. Requests the United Nations to develop strategies, at the request of interested countries, for rebuilding a viable public administration in countries undergoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

15. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions and all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies to assist, at their request, Member States involved in economic restructuring programmes to pursue national policies aimed at improving the development and management of their human resources through, inter alia, appropriate measures;

16. Recognizes the increased national efforts of Member States in providing adequate financial and other resources for the strengthening of their public administration;

17. Invites the international community to create an enabling international environment and to consider providing adequate financial and other resources for programmes of assistance to support national efforts in enhancing the effectiveness of public administration in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

18. Recommends that the Secretary-General take appropriate measures in order to ensure maximum coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of public administration and development;

19. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure ways of strengthening the coordination, coherence and harmonization of the management and implementation of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the field of public administration and development;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on public administration and development containing information on the implementation of the present resolution.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia: revised draft resolution

Public administration and development

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Mali, Mongolia and Philippines

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